

# Former Austin-area state representative Maurice Angly Jr. dies

By [Katie Glueck](#)

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Updated: 7:45 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012

Published: 7:28 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, 2012

Maurice Angly Jr., the first Republican state legislator elected to represent the Travis County area since Reconstruction and a champion of government transparency, died Monday in Anchorage, Alaska, his children said. He was 71.

Angly, a Houston native, served five years as a state representative from Travis and Burnet counties. He won a special election for the seat in 1967, and news reports say he expressed hope at the time that Texas, then overwhelmingly Democratic-leaning, could become a two-party state where Republicans might also be competitive.

Angly's daughter, Katherine James, said he remained active in politics throughout his life, serving as a delegate to the 1988 Republican National Convention. He also assisted with President George H.W. Bush's campaign, she said.

"To me, he was born to be a politician," said James, 47, who grew up in Central Austin. "He had that magnetic personality. He was vivacious, always the center of attention and the life of the party."

In office, Angly was a member of the "Dirty 30," a bipartisan cadre of representatives who pushed for reform in the statehouse and who were instrumental in ousting Speaker Gus Mutscher, who would later be indicted for his role in a stock fraud incident that shook the state, known as the Sharpstown State Bank scandal.

In 1972, Angly made an unsuccessful run for state treasurer against long-time incumbent Jesse James, a Democrat. Angly also lost a state senate race to U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, the Democrat who now represents Austin in Washington, D.C. Both times, Angly ran on platforms of government transparency and fiscal responsibility, news reports at the time showed.

Angly, who practiced law for several years in Austin, studied government at the University of Texas and also attended the UT School of Law with his then-wife, Surrenden Hill Angly, now 70.

Angly moved to Alaska about 10 years ago to partially retire and pursue fishing, hunting and gardening, his daughter said. Angly also worked at a market research firm, Hellenthal & Associates, in Anchorage, managing callers who conducted the research.

"Maurice had a wonderful sense of humor and, of course, that wonderful Texas accent," said Jean Hellenthal, who worked with Angly at Hellenthal, her husband's firm. "He had a lot of stories he could tell."

A memorial service is scheduled for Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the Texas State Cemetery.

Angly is survived by his children James, Maurice "Trey" Angly III , Surrenden Angly Gillespie and Etienne Kuldell Angly and by nine grandchildren, family members said.

kglueck@statesman.com; 445-3702